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OCT 2 2 2003 H	FOR	
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)		
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Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Total of information difficulty a valid of the definition of the second		
Application Number	09/174,461	
Filing Date	October 19, 1998	
First Named Inventor	KATSUMI IIJIMA, ET AL.	
Group Art Unit	2613	
Examiner Name	V. Le	
Attomey Docket Number	03500.013021	

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 a. لكيا Previously submitted Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on August 22, 2003. (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered). Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on

iii. Other **Enclosed** OCT 2 7 2003 Amendment/Reply i. **Technology Center 2600** Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) ii iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Other Petition for Extension of Time and a check in the amount of \$420.00. Miscellaneous

months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. Fees The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

Deposit Account No. 06-1205 10/23/2003 HDEMESS1 00000016 09174461 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) 770.00 OP Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) ii.

Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of

iii.

Check in the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed

Payment by credit card (Form PFO-2038 enclosed) SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED 32,078 Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

Name (Print/Type) Signature October 22, 2003 Date CERNFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: Name (Print/Type)

Signature Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Director of the U.S.P.T.O., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.